

An Essay on
Mucous Fever

Respectfully Submitted

To the Faculty of the

Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania

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Eighteen hundred and fifty five

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of

Massachusetts.

All diseases are either Acute or Chronic, the former are generally said having reference mainly to the duration of the disease. All cases of recent origin may be called acute, and those of long standing Chronic. Fevers are generally classed under the former head; Authors have made an almost infinite division, and subdivision of fevers, with which we shall not meddle further than to say,

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membranes of the whole alimentary
canal, but particularly
of the Stomach and bowels.

The more common exciting
causes, are depressing mental
emotions, errors in diet, and
exposure to cold and damp.

The following symptoms usually
precede the attack for a consider-
able period, loss of appetite,
insipid or complete loss of taste,
moust, slimy, white tongue,
nausea, sensation of fulness in

the region of the Stomach, irregular stools, pale face, moderate thirst, sleepless nights, &c. As the disease advances, vomiting of a tasteless white mucus occurs, the stomach is deranged and distressingly distended from taking the smallest quantity of food, generally the tongue which has been from the first covered with a uniform white mucous coat, is now freed from mucus at the tip, and margin, and of a darkish red colour, indicating a Typhoid tendency. In the milder forms, the tongue remains white throughout the entire course of the disease, becoming dry towards

evening, in the morning disagreeable taste in the mouth, and abundant secretion of a tough mucous, from which the patient relieves himself by hawking or vomiting. When the disease extends to the bowels, there are frequent white, slimy, bilious, and undigested stools, attended by borborygmus and griping. The urine is straw colored, turbid, and deposits a mucous sediment. Pulse usually soft, weak and rather slow, slight thirst, moderate perspiration, prostration of strength, drowsiness, pressive pain in the forehead, restlessness, particu-

early at night, dullness of the eyes, indolent and morose dispositions. This disease runs its course in from five to twenty one days, when judiciously treated. A gentle perspiration, a profuse discharge of straw coloured wine, and a gentle quiet sleep are favorable signs, and indicate a speedy recovery. On the other hand, the recurrence of aphtha which becomes gangrenous, or the reperussion or non appearance malaria (a characteristic of the whole class of continued fevers,) or paralysis of the nerves supplying the abdomen, ~~involuntary~~ attended by motorism, involuntary

Putrid stools, and small weak, trembling puls. These with perhaps some other symptoms, indicate a fatal termination.

In the severer forms of this disease, the symptoms so nearly resemble the more advanced stages of Typhoid fever, that it is nearly or quite impossible to distinguish between the two without consulting the history of the case.

Treatment. Prompt and effective treatment in the beginning of the disease, is of the greatest importance, by which means the course of the disease may be materially shortened, if not wholly broken up.

The following ^{are} among the
remedies made use of in the
earlier treatment, Puls, Sux, Spec,
Am, Mur, Merc, Dulc, Staff,

The particular indications for
Puls. are eructations of the
ingesta, tongue covered with
a foul whitish mucus, and
chilliness, with lowness of spirits
&c, especially if the patient
have partaken of rich fat food.
Sux, if there be nausea, headache,
flatulence &c, especially if the
patient has indulged in the
free use of wines or other
stimulants.

Spec. If there be nausea, anxiety,
oppressive breathing &c.

Am. Mus., has the following indications,
white mucous coat on the tongue,
constant effort to clear the throat
of the tenacious mucous, disagreeable
taste in the mouth, nausea, aversion
to food, eructation, rising of a sour,
bitter watery fluid, with sensations
of emptiness, hunger &c; also

Dulc., Is particularly recommended
when the attack arises
from exposure to cold, and is
attended by a soapy taste in the
mouth, dryness of the tongue,
with thirst, disinclination for
food, and a dirty white coat
on the tongue.

Merc., Is one of the most important
remedies for the treatment
of this disease, both in its

incipency and in the more advanced stages of the complaint, when there is loss of appetite, a white fur on the tongue, and covered with slime, painfull dryness in the throat, when in the act of swallowing, putrid rust, and offensive breath; also when there is nausea, with tearing burning pain in the temples, prissive aching tension in the region of the stomach, acrid fluid rising in the mouth, closely slimy wine depositing a sediment; irregular stools with frequent urging, yellow pale face, great debility, &c.

The characteristic indications

are thick, dirty, slimy, coating
on the tongue, insipid pap like,
soapy taste in the mouth; -
longing for highly seasoned food,
sensations of dryness in the
mouth and throat, aphtha,
sluggish stools, or constipation,
or relaxed, slimy, and very offen-
sive alvine evacuations, and
extreme mental and physical
depression. If the disease runs
into the more advanced stages,
the following medicines may
be indicated, Sep., Lyc., Kali carb.,
Calc., Dig., Spig., Myos., Stram., Also,
Rhus., Bell., Verat., Phos., Ars., Nitr. Ac.,
Ph. Ac., Chin., and perhaps some
others,

Diet, The diet should be
very light, consisting princi-
-pally of fluids prepared
with Rice, Barley, Farina, &c.,
cold water may be taken freely.